

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT M 00731 300510Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 SAM-01 /059 W

----- 124717

R 300055Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0731

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP

SUBJ: GENERAL ELECTIONS DEFERRED UNTIL 1977

REF: PORT MORESBY 0169

1. BACKGROUND: REFTEL REPORTED PASSAGE BACKBENCHER SPONSORED MOTION FEBRUARY 25 TO DELAY 1976 ELECTIONS UNTIL 1977. IMPETUS BEHIND THAT ACTION WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BELIEF THAT LARGE NUMBER MHA'S WOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO HOUSE. REFTEL NOTED TOTAL ABSENCE PARTY DISCIPLINE HERE IN FACE OF ISSUES OF PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE SITTING MEMBERS.

2. ON JULY 28 HOUSE (SITTING AS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY) ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED ELECTION DATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHAPTER 14 OF CONSTITUTION DEALING WITH TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSTITUTION.

3. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY VOTED 50 TO 29 IN FAVOR DEFERRING NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNTIL MAY OR JUNE 1977. MOVE WAS SUPPORTED BY SEVEN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, DIRIA (POSTS), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT M 00731 300510Z

KAVALI (LANDS), OKUK (TRANSPORT), BELO (WORKS), TAUREKA

(EDUCATION), LUS (POLICE), SASAKILA (CULTURE). COUNTRY PARTY LEADER GIREGIRE AND A NUMBER OF UNITED PARTY FRONT BENCHERS ALSO SUPPORTED THE MOVE. CHANGE WAS JUSTIFIED, AS BEFORE, AS PROMOTING CONTINUITY AND STABILITY OF GOVERNMENT IN PERIOD FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. A LATER AMENDMENT TO EXTEND ELECTIONS TO 1978 WAS DEFEATED.

COMMENT: POLOFF TOOK BROAD SURVEY OF MHA'S VIEWS DAY FOLLOWING VOTE. CONSENSUS IS LARGE NUMBER MHA'S DO NOT WISH FACE CONSTITUENTS AT THIS TIME. THESIS THAT PROLONGING ELECTIONS UNTIL 1977 WILL PROMOTE GOVT STABILITY IS DISCREDITED BY FACT CHIEF MINISTER, PROMINENT PANGU AND PPP MHA'S, LEADER OF OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY TEI ABEL, AND THOSE NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP MHA'S PRESENT ALL VOTED AGAINST AMENDMENT TO EXTEND ELECTIONS.

EASTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTM00731  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750262-0413  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975078/aaaaahae.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PORT MORESBY 169  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ellisob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL ELECTIONS DEFERRED UNTIL 1977  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006